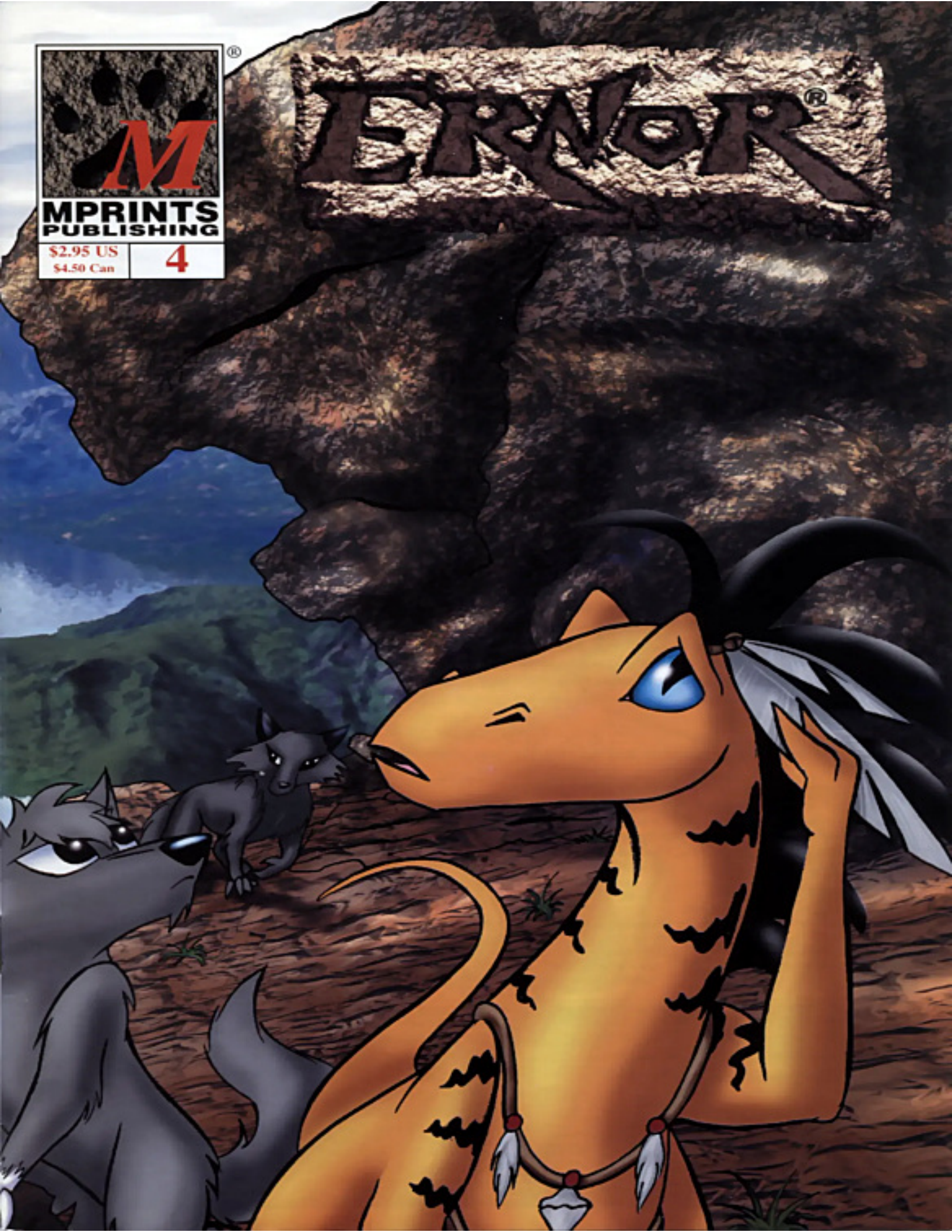
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4
ERNOR®

When his pack is attacked by the menacing Chic'tr, the Fenrae pup, Whitepaw, must leave the security of his home in search of help, encountering creatures he knows only through stories and legends...

Art
&
Story
Vicky Morgan-Keith
&
Patrick Keith

Cover Art
Vicky Morgan-Keith

Colors
Patrick Keith

Letters
Comicraft

Ernor Logo
Created with Bryce 3D

Patterings...

I know exactly how Sergio felt...

Many, many years ago, when there was such a thing as the Dallas Fantasy Fair, I had gone in the hopes of picking up some goodies to fill various holes in the titles I was collecting at the time. Much to my surprise I happened across a *Groo* #29 in a .50¢ bin and I cast my gaze about as if I had just come across the Hovito's Idol and Belloque was just around the corner. Not only that but there were three more of them! What was so stunning was, the price guide listed these babies at $30 a shot! I promptly handed over my two buck and made off from the table as quick as I could.

This was of course the same weekend that cartoon legend Sergio Aragones was in attendance and I just couldn't pass up the opportunity to get them autographed. I waited until the slavering hordes had thinned and then approched with my new-found treasure. Sergio was pleasant and drew a little picture of Rufferto in each one, to my delight. This was of course the very first issue in which Groo's canine companion had ever made an appearance, so that was wonderfully appropriate.

But it's what Sergio said that stuck with me. He looked up, smiled and asked, "So, you gonna read all these, huh?" I laughed and told him a couple were for some friends. He chuckled and finished his cartoons and we both went our separate ways. I delivered two of the issues to my co-workers who had been unable to attend and kept the rest. But that little exchange never had an impact until I started trying to sell my own stuff.

All of the folks whom I've know previous to our becoming publishers have holed our issues of Ernor away heremetically sealed in plastic with the odd comment or two about putting their kids through college with it. While I yearn for the success that would bring about that kind of return, I am desperately pleased when someone actually reads the story! Pleased when someone makes a connection with the characters. Pleased when someone "gets it". There is more than just light hearted entertainment and action going on here and I am grateful when our themes of acceptance and cooperation are recognized for what they are.

Being a big fan of Disney, and animation in general, I am often disappointed with the attutude of adults in this country regarding comics and cartoons. Many people have commented to me that they are embarassed to attend an animated film unless they have the excuse to be accompanied by a child. How sad. They apparently care enough about the medium to expose their children. Why can't they continue with the same excitement as their younger ones? These stories work on many levels and tell us who we are and where we are going, regardless of it being fuzzy little animals singing to us or not.

Cherish all of the stories, they tell us how we feel, and how others feel...

Cum air falbh feur gorm!
- P -

Having trouble getting *Ernor*? Try these folks - they should have copies!

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First Printing

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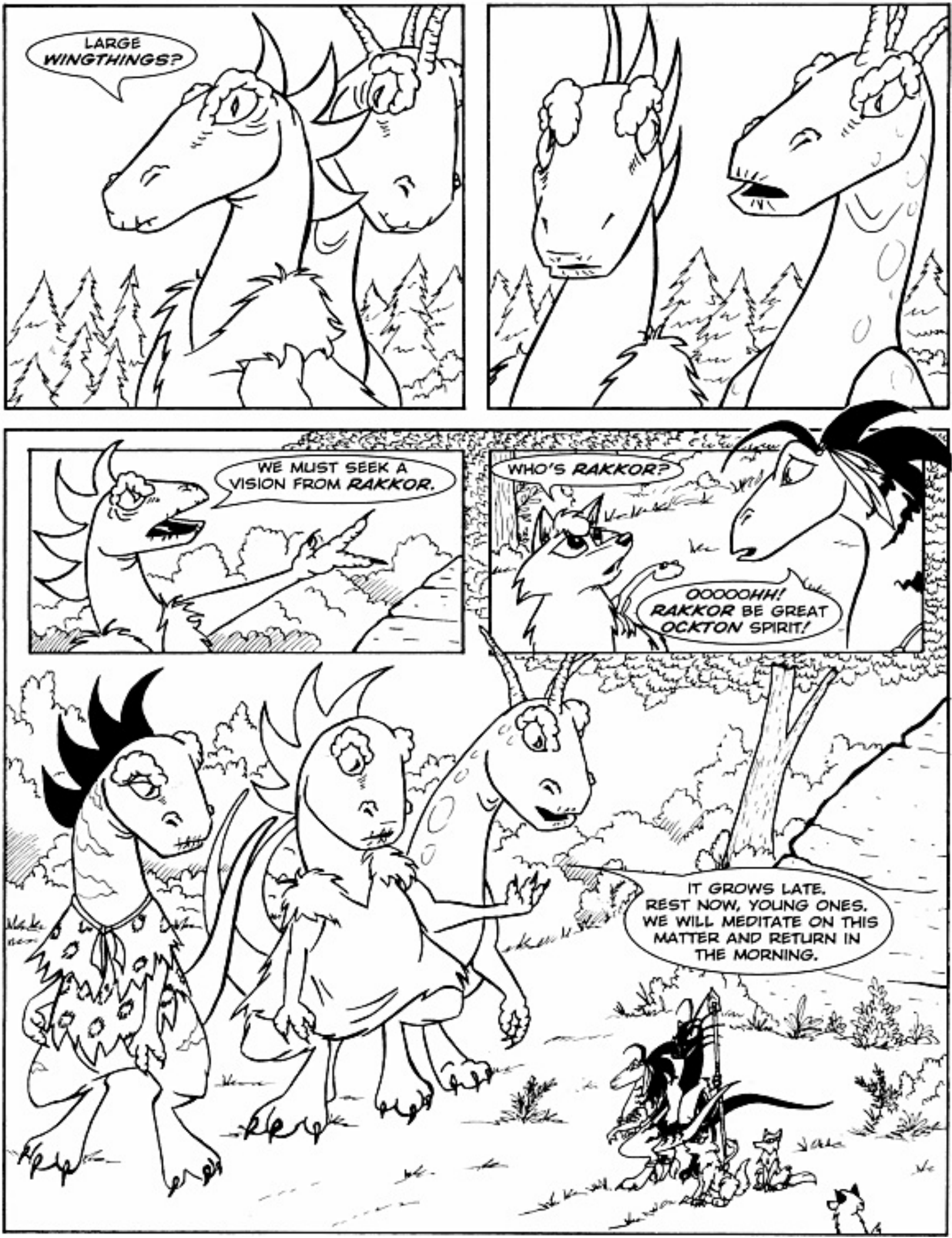
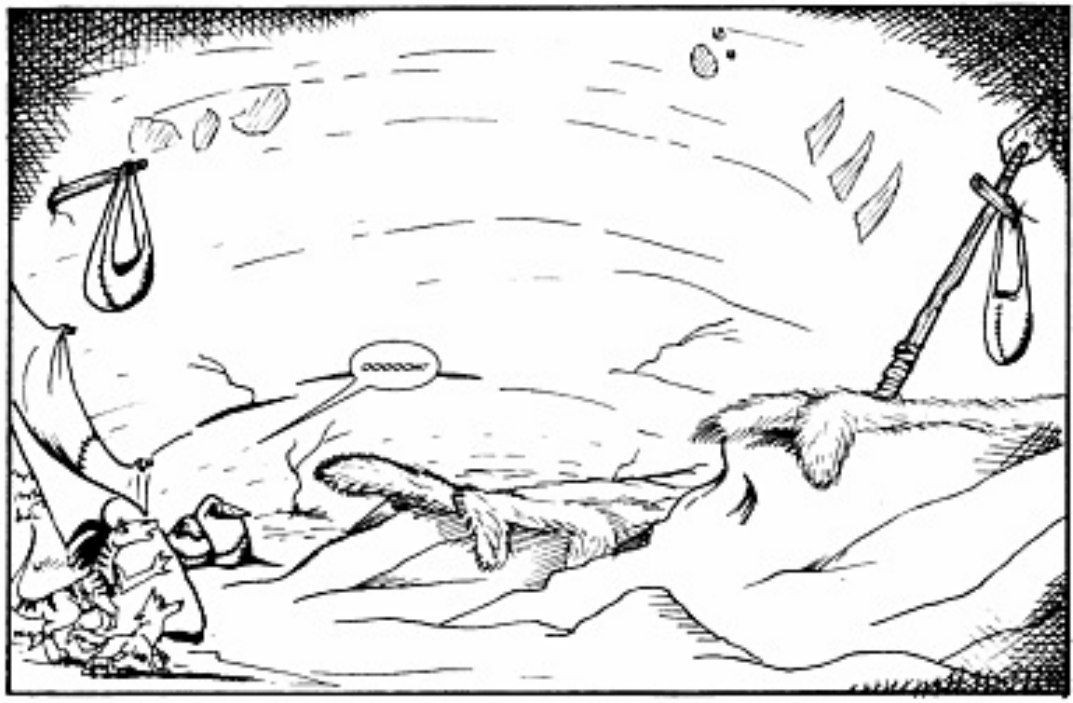
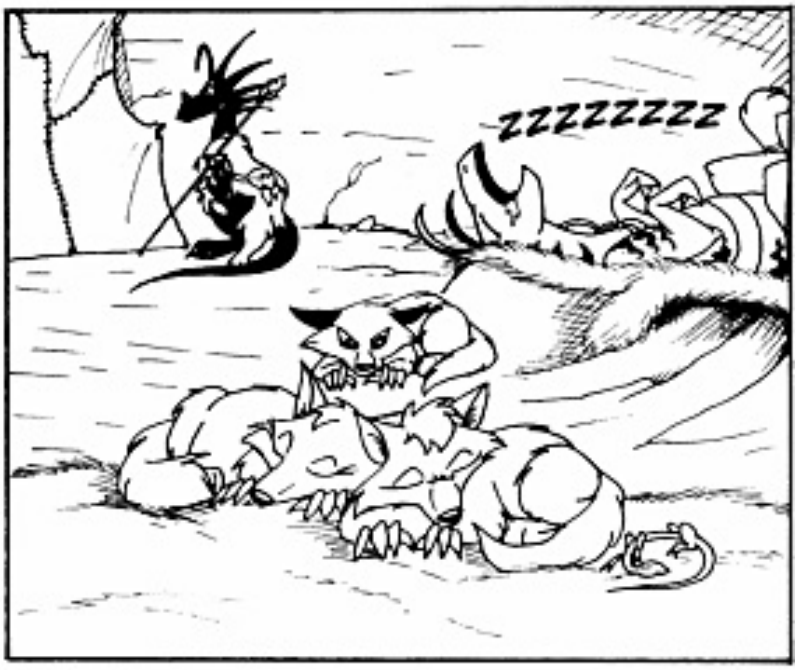
I AM GRAN H'SAK. WHY HAVE YOU COME?
ME HASK OF THE REDTOOTHS. THIS BE FLASHDUST OF V'ROK, AND THIS YIP-YAP MY FRIEND. ME BRING MESSAGE FROM NIK'KAR.
HMMM. THE VILLAGERS HAVE BEEN PLAGUED FREQUENTLY BY THE SIX-LEGS.
THEY HAVE?
DON'T YOU KNOW?
ME NEVER THERE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT.

THERE SEEM TO BE MANY OF THEM THIS SEASON. CHIEFTESS PAD'DRAK IS ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE.
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
THE OCKTONS ARE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE CHIC'TR, TOO. HASK'S PACK SENT HER HERE TO GET HELP.
LIKE ME.
THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM. IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH US.
WAIT, BLACKEAR!
MY PACK WAS ATTACKED BY THE CHIC'TR TOO.
THEY KILLED ONE OF US AND I WAS SENT TO FIND HELP.
BUT BLACKEAR AND SOFTSILVER ARE THE ONLY ONES LEFT.
WE WEREN'T ATTACKED BY CHIC'TR. OUR PACK WAS ATTACKED BY SOME KIND OF HUGE BIRDS.
GASP!


LARGE WINGTHINGS?
WE MUST SEEK A VISION FROM RAKKOR.
WHO'S RAKKOR?
OOOOOHH! RAKKOR BE GREAT OCKTON SPIRIT!
IT GROWS LATE. REST NOW, YOUNG ONES. WE WILL MEDITATE ON THIS MATTER AND RETURN IN THE MORNING.


oooooo!

Hmm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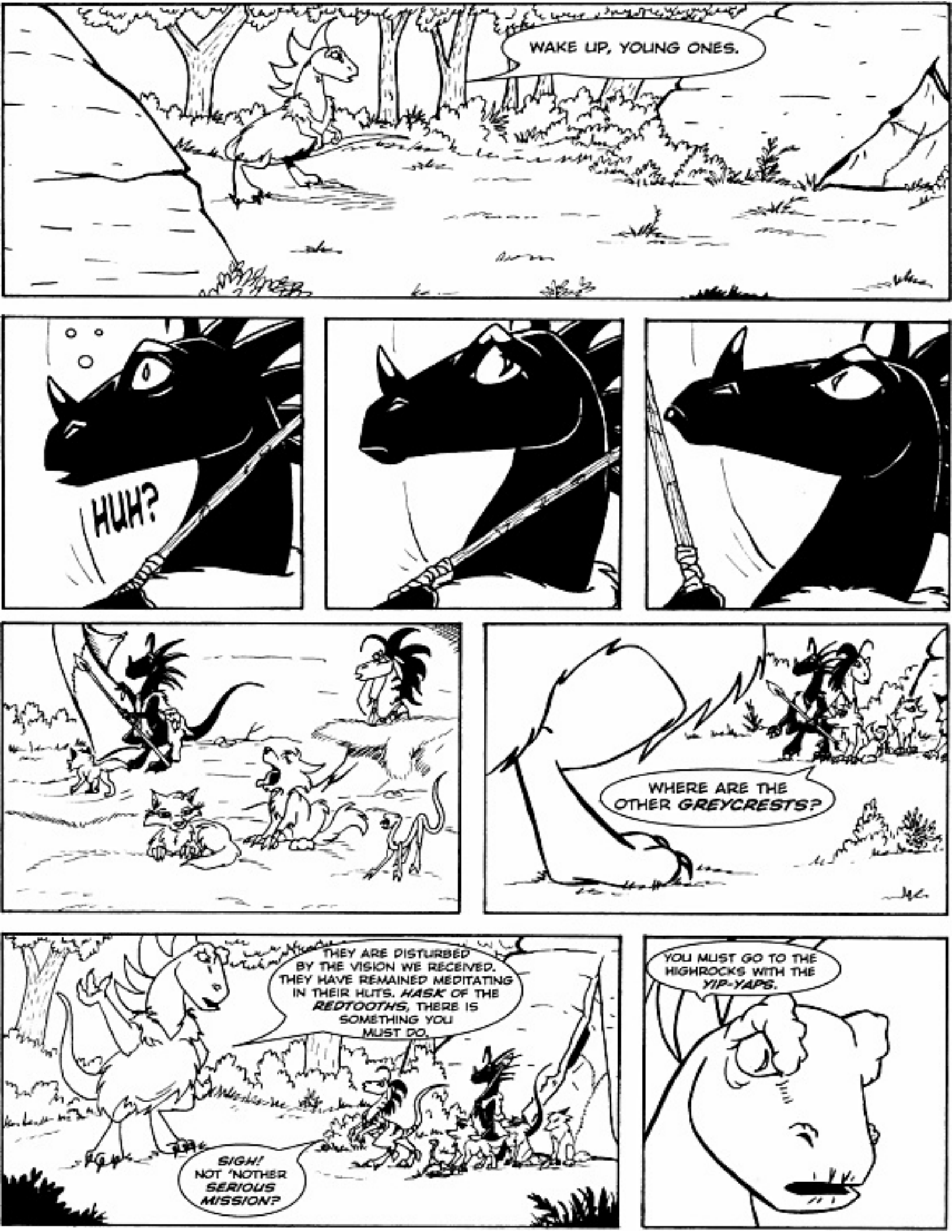
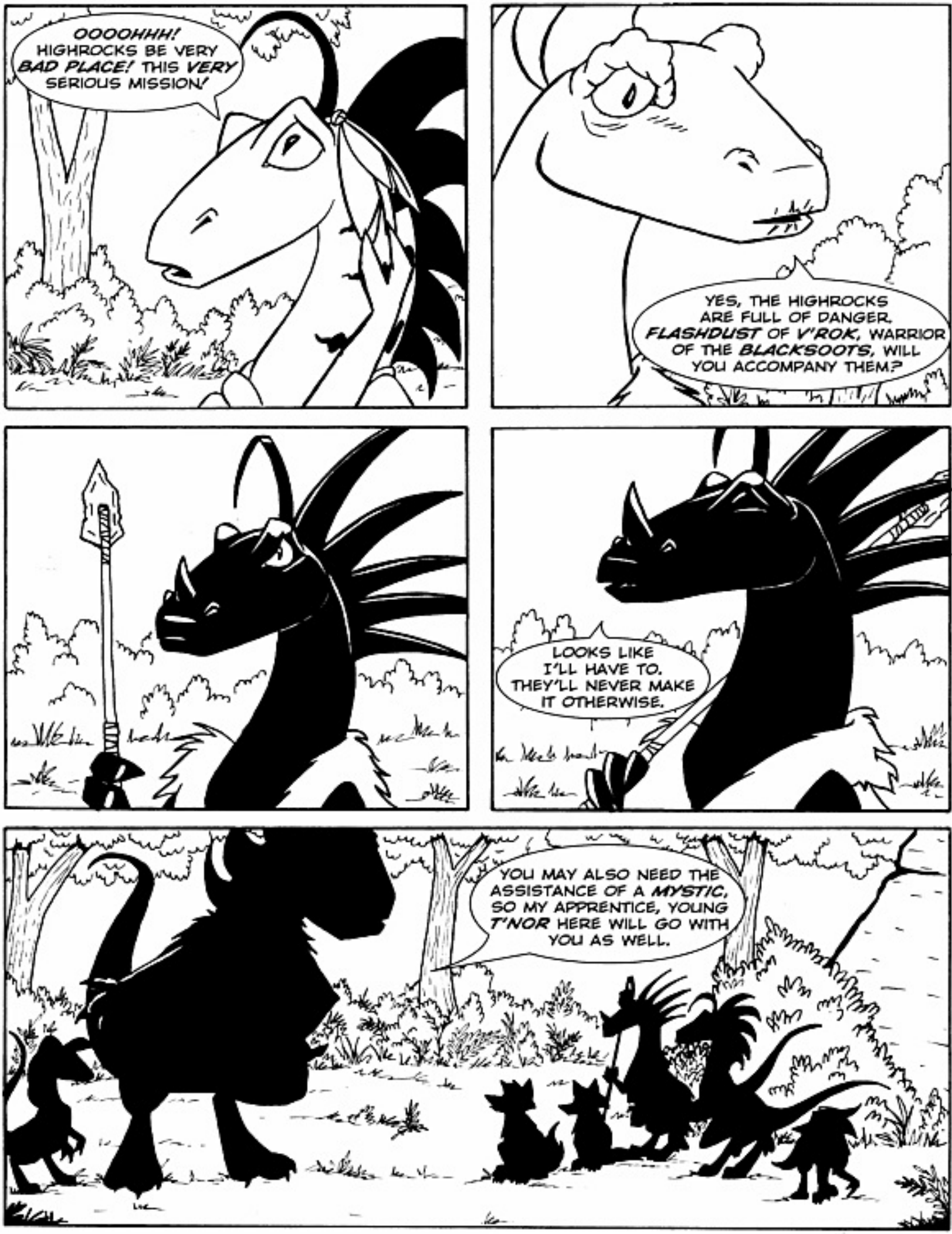
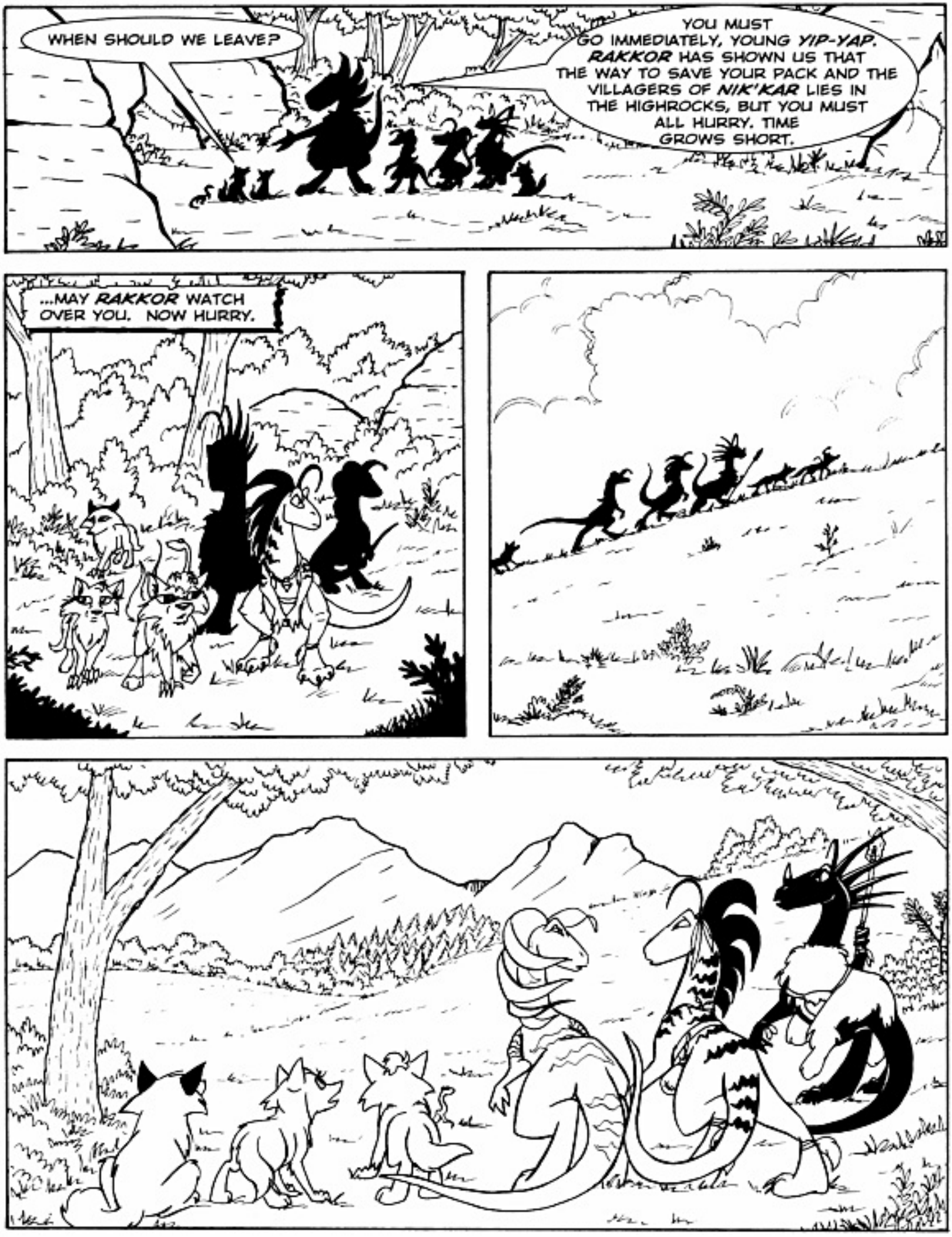
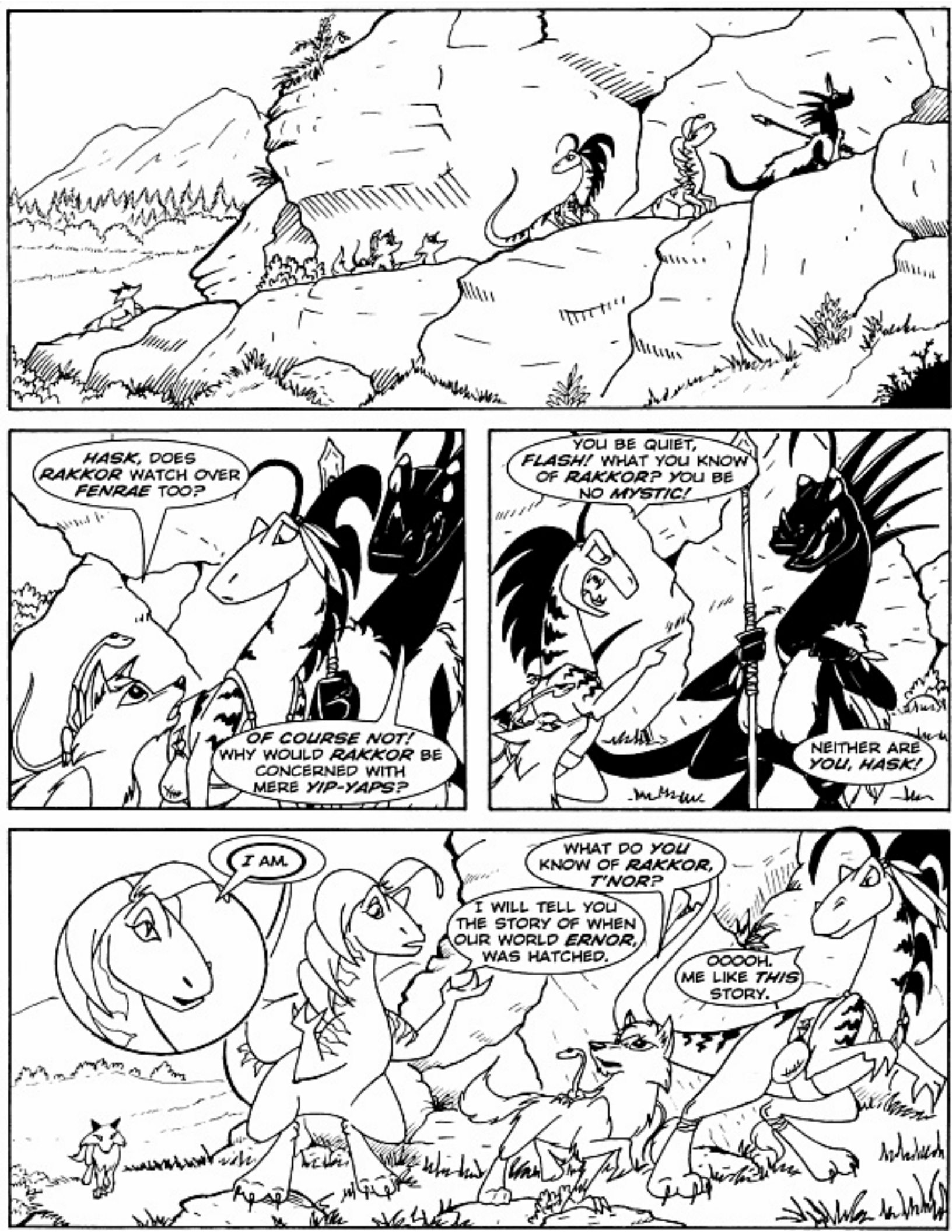
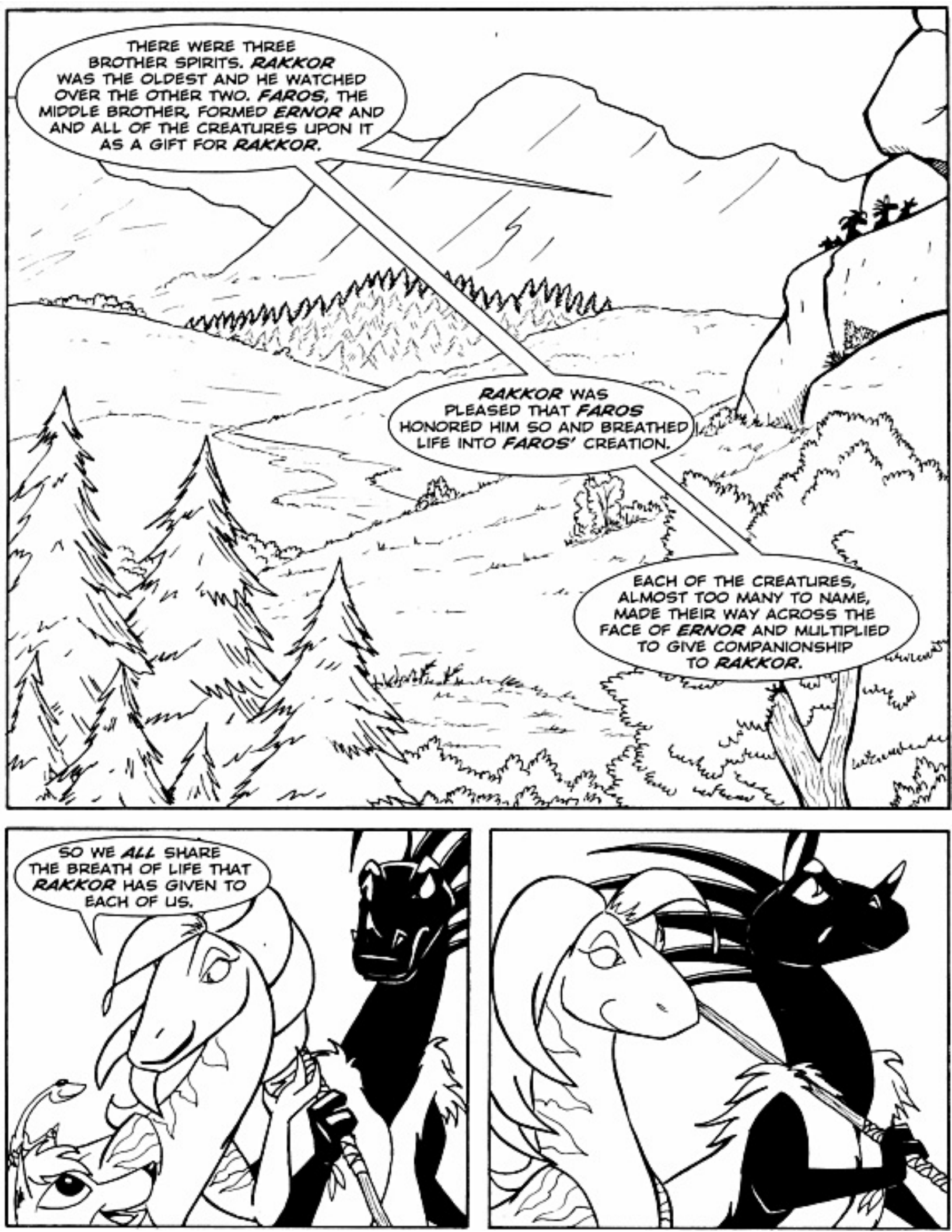

WAKE UP, YOUNG ONES.
HUH?
WHERE ARE THE OTHER GREYCRESTS?
THEY ARE DISTURBED BY THE VISION WE RECEIVED. THEY HAVE REMAINED MEDITATING IN THEIR HUTS. HASK OF THE REDTOOTHS, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU MUST DO.
SIGH! NOT 'NOTHER SERIOUS MISSION?
YOU MUST GO TO THE HIGHROCKS WITH THE YIP-YAPS.

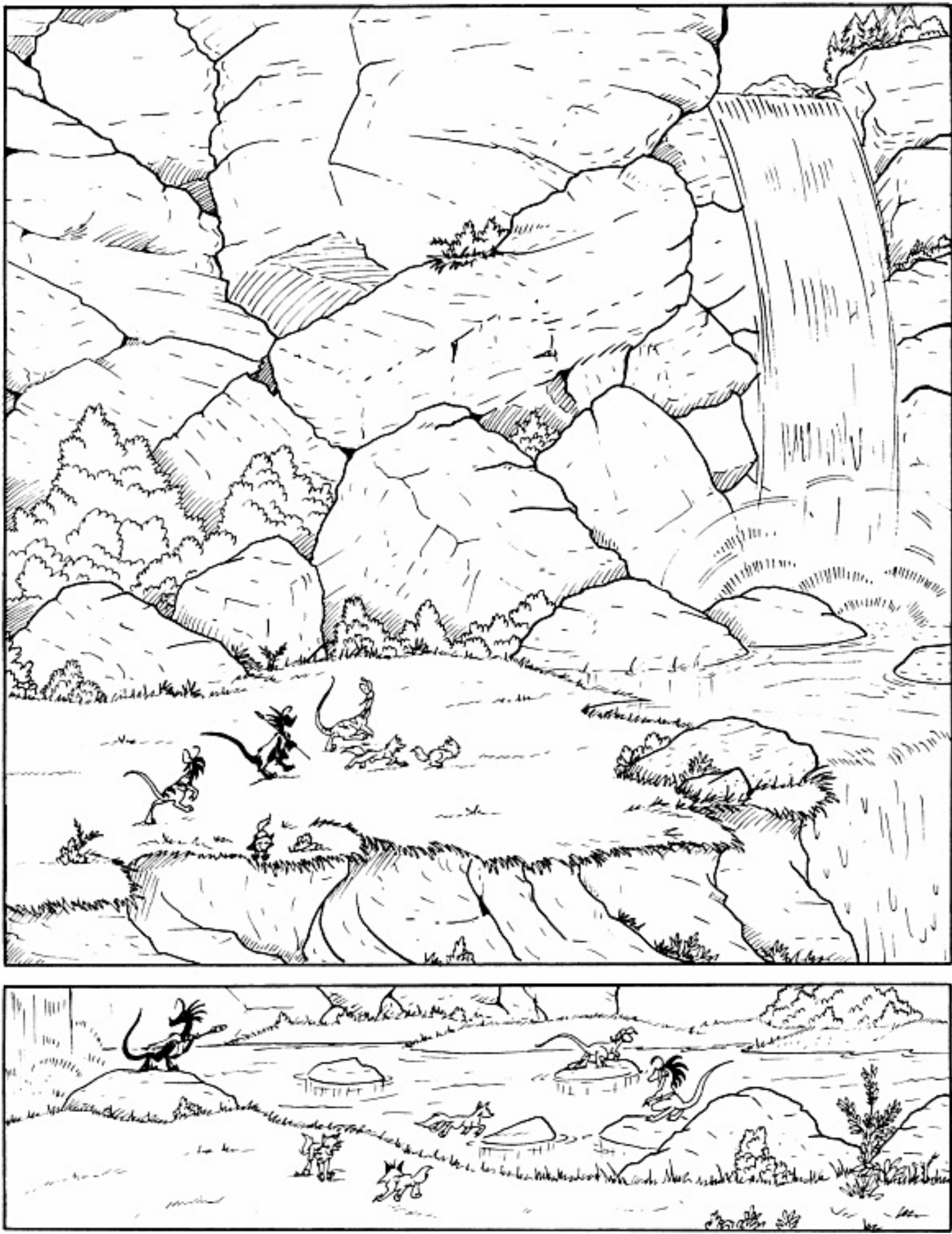

OOOOHHH! HIGHROCKS BE VERY BAD PLACE! THIS VERY SERIOUS MISSION!
YES, THE HIGHROCKS ARE FULL OF DANGER. FLASHDUST OF V'ROK, WARRIOR OF THE BLACKSOOTS, WILL YOU ACCOMPANY THEM?
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO. THEY'LL NEVER MAKE IT OTHERWISE.
YOU MAY ALSO NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF A MYSTIC, SO MY APPRENTICE, YOUNG T'NOR HERE WILL GO WITH YOU AS WELL.

ME HASK OF THE REDTOO--
I AM FLASHDUST OF V'ROK, BLACKSOOT WARRIOR. I GREET YOU, T'NOR.
HELP!
I AM T'NOR OF K'LAR.
ME GREET YOU, T'NOR OF K'LAR. THIS YIP-YAP AND THE OTHER YIP-YAPS TRAVEL WITH ME.
INDEED?
HOW QUAINT.


WHEN SHOULD WE LEAVE?
YOU MUST GO IMMEDIATELY, YOUNG YIP-YAP. RAKKOR HAS SHOWN US THAT THE WAY TO SAVE YOUR PACK AND THE VILLAGERS OF NIK'KAR LIES IN THE HIGHROCKS, BUT YOU MUST ALL HURRY. TIME GROWS SHORT.
...MAY RAKKOR WATCH OVER YOU. NOW HURRY.

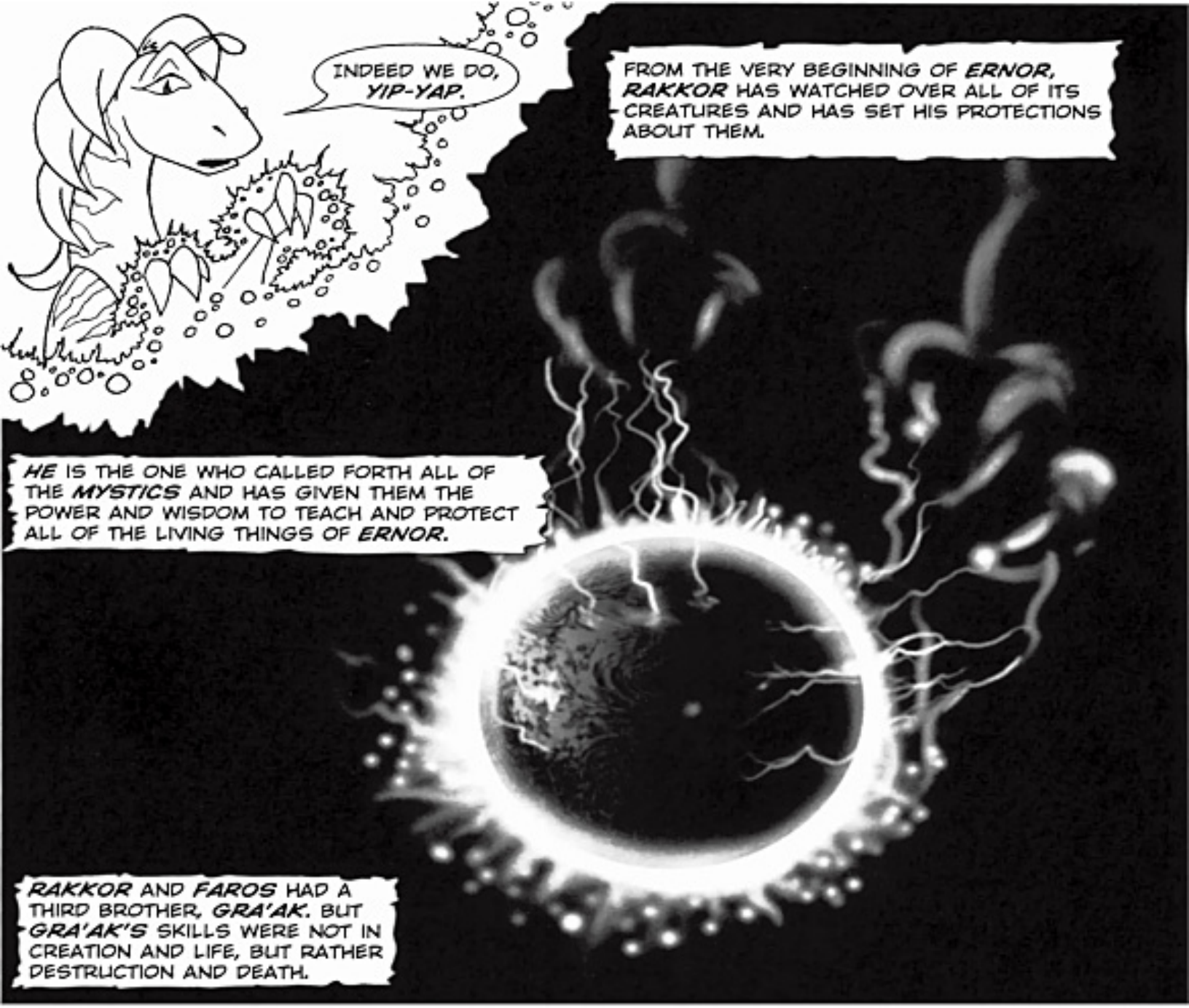

HASK, DOES RAKKOR WATCH OVER FENRAE TOO?
OF COURSE NOT! WHY WOULD RAKKOR BE CONCERNED WITH MERE YIP-YAPS?
YOU BE QUIET, FLASH! WHAT YOU KNOW OF RAKKOR? YOU BE NO MYSTIC!
NEITHER ARE YOU, HASK!
I AM.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF RAKKOR, T'NOR?
I WILL TELL YOU THE STORY OF WHEN OUR WORLD ERNOR, WAS HATCHED.
OOOOH. ME LIKE THIS STORY.


THERE WERE THREE BROTHER SPIRITS. RAKKOR WAS THE OLDEST AND HE WATCHED OVER THE OTHER TWO. FAROS, THE MIDDLE BROTHER, FORMED ERNOR AND AND ALL OF THE CREATURES UPON IT AS A GIFT FOR RAKKOR.
RAKKOR WAS PLEASED THAT FAROS HONORED HIM SO AND BREATHED LIFE INTO FAROS' CREATION.
EACH OF THE CREATURES, ALMOST TOO MANY TO NAME, MADE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE FACE OF ERNOR AND MULTIPLIED TO GIVE COMPANIONSHIP TO RAKKOR.
SO WE ALL SHARE THE BREATH OF LIFE THAT RAKKOR HAS GIVEN TO EACH OF US.

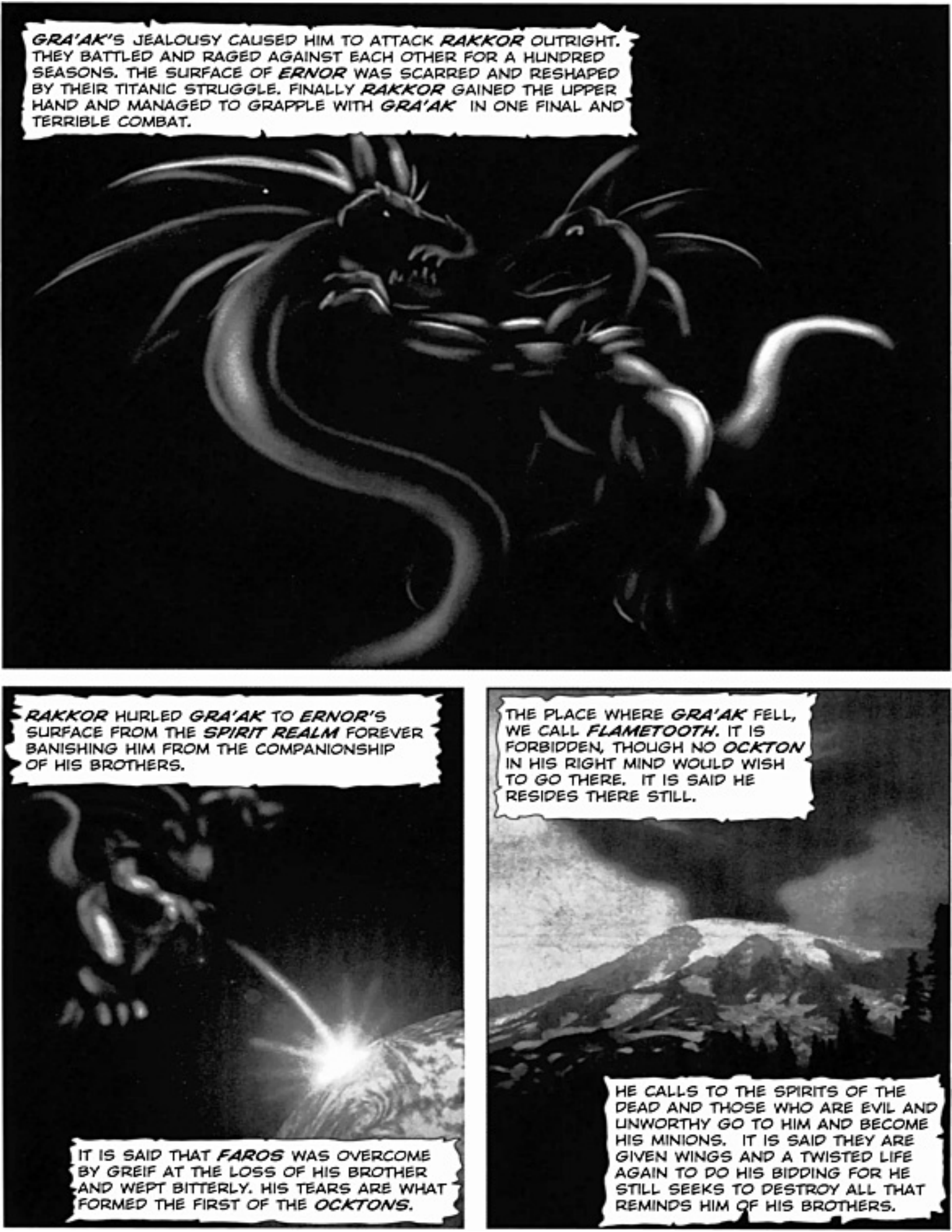


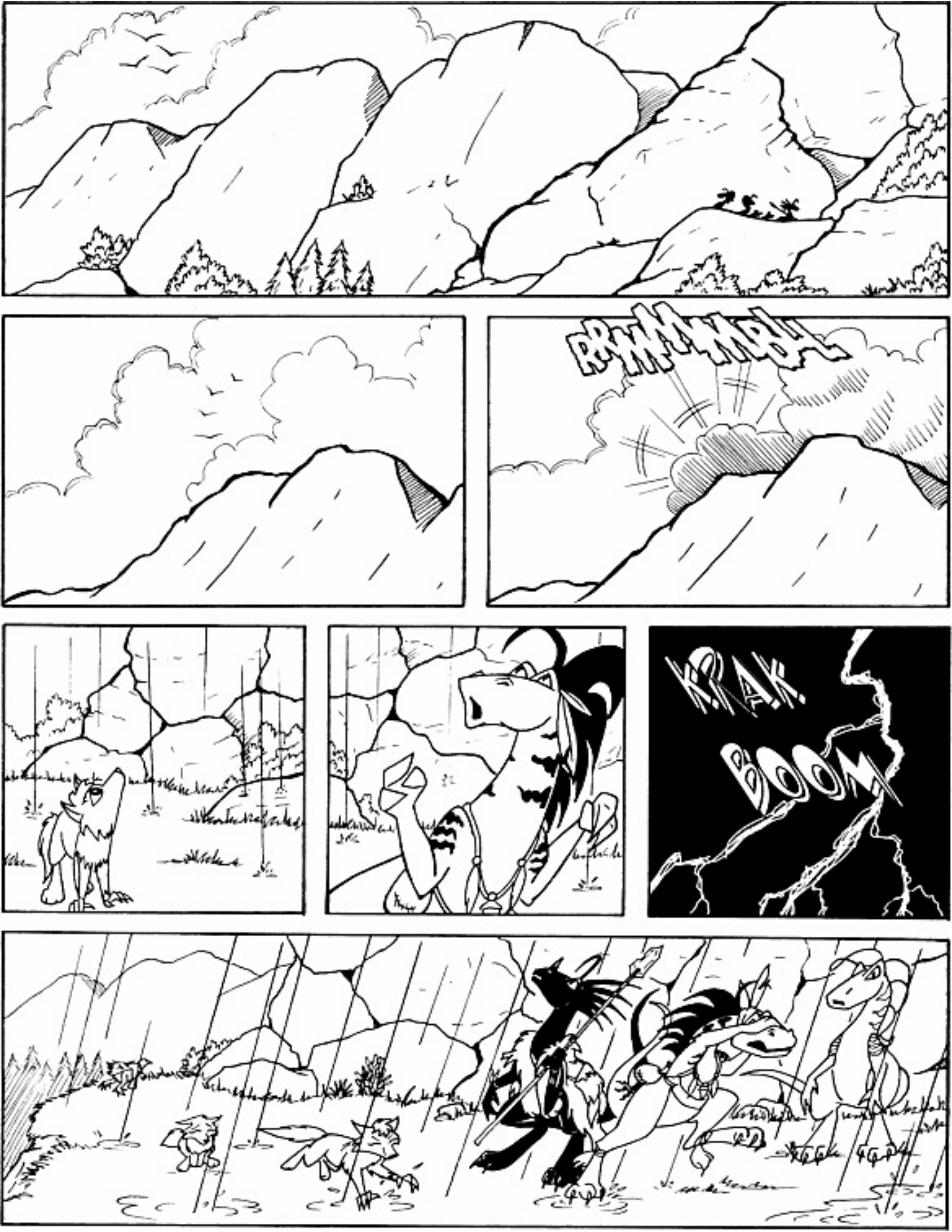
SPLASH
CAREFUL, YIP-YAP! ME THINK ME HEAR SOMETHING!
WHY ARE THE HIGHROCKS DANGEROUS, HASK?
EVIL WINGTHINGS HERE FOR ONE.
YOU MEAN BIRDS. WHY DO YOU FEAR BIRDS SO?
YEAH, BIRDS ARE GOOD TO EAT.
IN FACT, I WOULDN'T MIND IF WE FOUND SOME RIGHT NOW, EVEN SOME OF THOSE BIG ONES YOU OVERGROWN LIZARDS ARE SCARED OF!

HISS
HISSSSHH! YOU NO SAY THAT, FOOLISH, BLACKEAR YIP-YAP!
YOU NO SAY THAT AGAIN!
HA! YOU OCKTONS AREN'T SO TOUGH IF YOU'RE SCARED OF BIRDS.
QUIET, BLACKEAR!
WEREN'T WE TAUGHT AS PUPS TO BE WARY OF HAWKS? WHAT ABOUT OWLS? OR EAGLES? THESE BIRDS ARE VERY BIG, THE OCKTONS, AND US, HAVE GOOD REASON TO FEAR THEM.


INDEED WE DO, YIP-YAP.
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF ERNOR, RAKKOR HAS WATCHED OVER ALL OF ITS CREATURES AND HAS SET HIS PROTECTIONS ABOUT THEM.
HE IS THE ONE WHO CALLED FORTH ALL OF THE MYSTICS AND HAS GIVEN THEM THE POWER AND WISDOM TO TEACH AND PROTECT ALL OF THE LIVING THINGS OF ERNOR.
RAKKOR AND FAROS HAD A THIRD BROTHER, GRA'AK. BUT GRA'AK'S SKILLS WERE NOT IN CREATION AND LIFE, BUT RATHER DESTRUCTION AND DEATH.

WHEN GRA'AK HAD SEEN THE WONDER CREATED BY FAROS AND HOW PLEASED RAKKOR WAS WITH ERNOR, HE GREW JEALOUS OF HIS TWO OLDER BROTHERS AND BEGAN TO PLOT AGAINST THEM.


GRA'AK'S JEALOUSY CAUSED HIM TO ATTACK RAKKOR OUTRIGHT. THEY BATTLED AND RAGED AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR A HUNDRED SEASONS. THE SURFACE OF ERNOR WAS SCARRED AND RESHAPED BY THEIR TITANIC STRUGGLE. FINALLY RAKKOR GAINED THE UPPER HAND AND MANAGED TO GRAPPLE WITH GRA'AK IN ONE FINAL AND TERRIBLE COMBAT.
RAKKOR HURLED GRA'AK TO ERNOR'S SURFACE FROM THE SPIRIT REALM FOREVER BANISHING HIM FROM THE COMPANIONSHIP OF HIS BROTHERS.
IT IS SAID THAT FAROS WAS OVERCOME BY GREIF AT THE LOSS OF HIS BROTHER AND WEPT BITTERLY. HIS TEARS ARE WHAT FORMED THE FIRST OF THE OCKTONS.
THE PLACE WHERE GRA'AK FELL, WE CALL FLAMETOOTH. IT IS FORBIDDEN, THOUGH NO OCKTON IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD WISH TO GO THERE. IT IS SAID HE RESIDES THERE STILL.
HE CALLS TO THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD AND THOSE WHO ARE EVIL AND UNWORTHY GO TO HIM AND BECOME HIS MINIONS. IT IS SAID THEY ARE GIVEN WINGS AND A TWISTED LIFE AGAIN TO DO HIS BIDDING FOR HE STILL SEEKS TO DESTROY ALL THAT REMINDS HIM OF HIS BROTHERS.

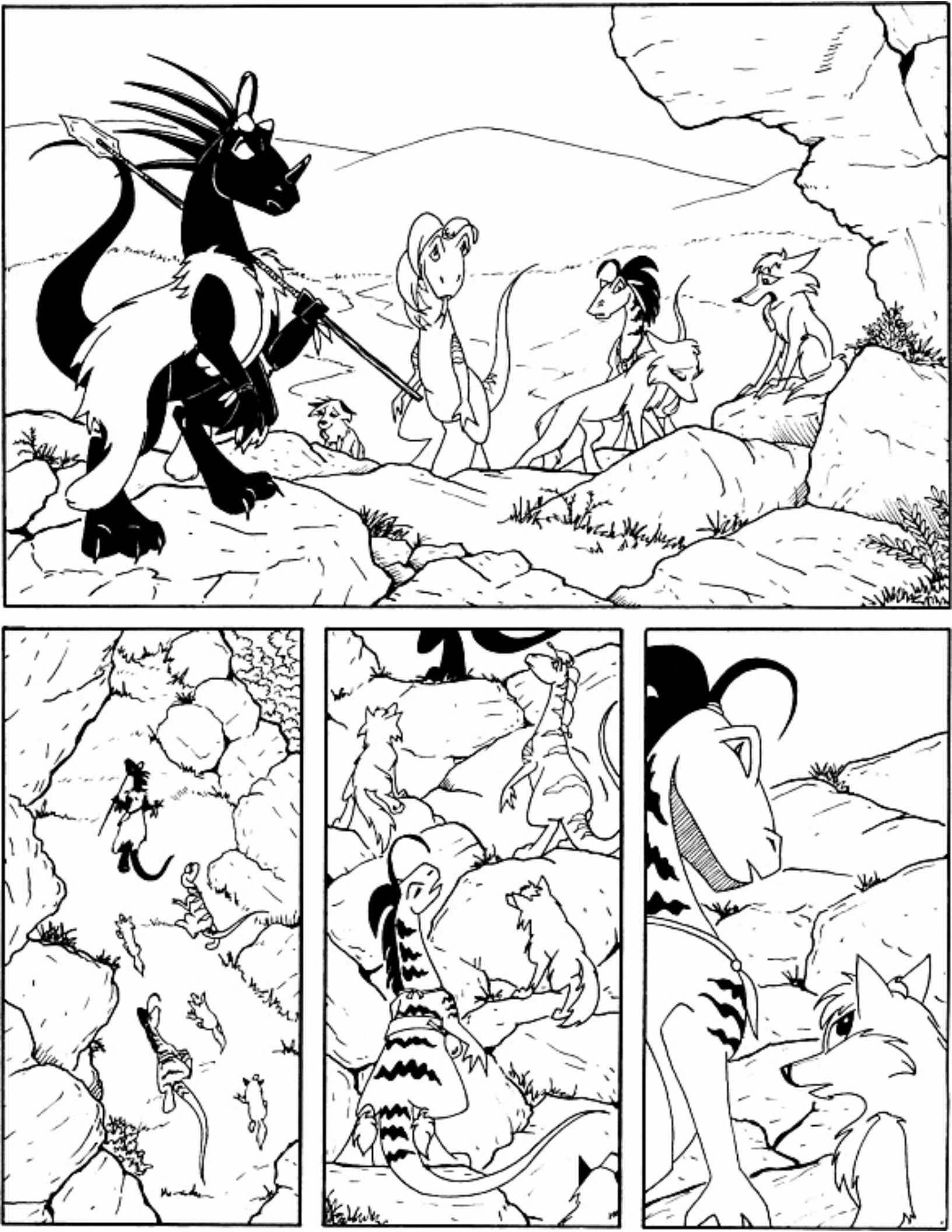

RRMMMBA
KRAK
BOOM

YIPE!
BLACKEAR!
CAN YOU WALK?
NO, BUT IT'S A SMALL TRADE COMPARED TO GOING OVER THE CLIFF!
I'LL CARRY HIM! COME ON!
A-HA!
LAAANN AWWWALA AHNWYNN.

QUICKLY! EVERYONE INSIDE! IT WILL BE DRY.
IS T'NOR OKAY?
SHE USE LOTS OF POWER TO MOVE ROCKS. AFTER A WHILE, MYSTIC WILL TIRE OUT, SOMETIMES DIE USING SPELLSONG.
I JUST NEED TO REST A BIT, THAT'S ALL, THEN WE CAN CONTINUE ON.
ME NOT GO OUTSIDE WHEN WATER FALL FROM SKY. BAD OMEN BE THAT.
BUT YOU SHOULD NOT FEAR FAROS' TEARS. HIS TEARS FORMED ALL OF THE OCKTONS.
ME ALREADY BEEN MADE. SO, ME NOT LIKE TO GET WEPT ON.

HMMM. AHHHMMMM MAAAMMH.
HOW'S THAT?
MUCH BETTER. THANK YOU.
OOOH! THAT NOT GOOD. NOT GOOD AT ALL!
LOOK LIKE BIG MUD SLIDE COME ALONG AND WASH LEDGE AWAY.
LIKE ALMOST WASH BLACKEAR YIP-YAP AWAY.
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET BACK NOW?
WE'LL HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY.
WELL THAT'S JUST GREAT! WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR?
I CAN'T EVEN SMELL ANYTHING NOW, THE RAIN'S WASHED ALL THE SCENTS AWAY!
LISTEN YIP-YAP, IF MYSTIC SAY WE NEED COME HERE, IT IMPORTANT THEN!
THEY WOULD NOT HAVE SENT US UNLESS THEY WERE GUIDED BY RAKKOR TO DO SO. I'M NOT CERTAIN WHAT WE'LL FIND HERE BUT WE MUST FOLLOW OUR PATH.
ENOUGH TALK. LET'S MOVE ON AND FIND LEVEL GROUND BEFORE DARK.



SKAWWW!!
!EEE!
TO BE CONTINUED...

Yip-Yaps

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Greetings! and thank you!

I have read and reread your first two *Ernor* issues, I'm hooked, and I like it. I've never been a fan of any comic series, but Ernor is so differint, its characters are new and very cool.

I saw you guys at Conifur, first got the books, then later came back for the shirt. Thank you both for the great series, I hope it continues, and that your success in publishing does as well.

By the way, I read and went over the photoshop tutorial and here's what I came up with.
Ernor Fan Art!

Brad "Carraig" Hungerford
via e-mail

Hey Brad that's great! I've been noodling around with 3D softwware for a while now and have a couple of projects on the burner. We have kicked around the idea of doing a short* Toy Story*-style animation of Whitepaw and Hask to show at cons.

Allo Yip-yap yahoeyes....

We met at Mephit briefly when I was able to get out from behind the tables, and you signed a set of Ernor 1-2 for me.

I love the series already, what can I say? Yip-yaps....a name that you can't forget!

Just wanted to drop you guys a line letting you all know I'm behind you all the way, and as long as you're printing this series,

I'll definitely be getting it.

Lyn Thomson (aka Ferret)
via e-mail

Thanks for letting us deface your comics like that - you can be sure nobody else will want them now that they've been scribbled on! We'll see ya' at the next Mephit!

Hi Ernor team,

Hello, I started reading your comic a month back and have pretty much fallen in love with it. It's awsome, a breath away from all those other 'X' titles we have all grown tired of. I have shown your comic to 13 other friends of mine and am proud to say that 11 of them now collect your awsome series.

We, me and four others, are planning on opening up a fan site on Geocities.com. We hope to have it done in not too long and up before year's end. I hope this reader's response is helpful. Thank you for your time, it is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Isaac Gonzalez

P.S. Oh, my friends and I were curious on who that red female Ockton was in the background on the wrap around cover of issue #4? Is she some future main character?

Hey that's a great record! I hope you scolded your other two friends appropriately! Seriously, glad you all like the book. We have been very happy about how all the characters have been recieved. We're really looking forward to seeing our very first fan-site online, we'll post the address in an upcoming issue of Ernor!

Well, if you're reading this, your question has been answered! That red female Ockton was none other than the Mystic apprentice, T'nor.

Vicky and Patrick,

I really enjoy your comic, and I am looking forward to discovering more about Whitepaw and Hask. In appreciation for sharing such a great story with me, I figured that I would share some of my writing with you. I know that a short poem does not have the size and scale of ERNOR, but I did not know if you had the time to read one of my stories. I hope you enjoy my gift.

Brandon Cracraft
via e-mail

P.S. Out of curiousity, what game was Vicky playing when she created Hask? I'm a gamer myself, so I was curious.

Hey thanks for the poem! That's pretty cool! I didn't actually print it here due to copyright restrictions but we did enjoy it.

As for the game, we were playing* AD&D 2nd Edition. *I created the* Ernor *setting using the* Creative Campaigning Book *guidelines and populated it with all manner of primitive and prehistoric critters. I basically worked out a few unarmed fighting rules for things like jumps and kicks and things like an Ockton would do. I

think they started out with 3 attacks per round and one of those could be a bite. They could use two attacks for a kick move, but couldn't use the third attack for a bite then, or something as equally complicated I think. There's plenty of source material to use for creating a lizard-like species so I picked a few of these and added them to the Ockton.

There were only two classes allowed: Fighter and Mystic. Of course the Blacksoots were elite and had a few benefits to the kit that the rank-and-file Ockton did not get. The Mystic is a Druid/Mage/Shaman-type character that draws from a pre-set list of spells in a customized sphere.

Whew - that was more than you probably ever wanted to know. At some point I may publish all the rules adaptations on my personal web page. We even converted some rules for Ocktons and Fenrae in **Warhammer**, *too. Who knows, if there's enough interest, there may be an Ernor RPG in the future!*

Dear Vicky and Patrick,

I just got the third issue of *Ernor* and I really like it. It belongs up there with *Bone*, which is obviously no small compliment. I really enjoyed the artwork and story, and the letters page with everyone trying to guess what the Ocktons are! They look closer to Dino from the *Flintsones* than anything, but it doesn't matter to me. The Fenrae aren't quite wolves, and I doubt anything else on Ernor are quite what they appear. That's what's so cool about it.

I did have one question for you about your influences- way back in the 60s and 70s there was a show called *Kimba, the White Lion* based on a manga called *Jungle Emperor*. As I read issue #3, I thought I detected a simliar "feel" as that great old cartoon. If you don't know what it is about, or never saw it, well, that's OK. It's about a white lion cub who tries to teach a civilized way in the jungle after his father gets killed. Yes, it does sound familiar, because Disney ripped it off completely for their movie *The Lion King*.

Thanks for a great comic!

David McRobie
Xenorama, the Journal of Heroes and Monsters

PS. Are you all gonna try to come to San Diego for the Comic Con this next year?

Hey, David!

Thanks for all the wonderful compliments! We're big fans of* Bone *ourselves, so we're very flattered! Dino, huh? While I can understand why you'd say that, Dino wasn't on our minds when we came up with the Ocktons--but you're right, things on Ernor aren't always what they seem! Just keep watching, you'll see what we mean.

***I remember hearing about* Kimba *and seeing commercials for it and always wanted to watch it, but at that time I didn't have the cable channel it was broadcast on and wasn't able to watch the show. You're right about my influences, though they go a bit further back. I've always been strongly influenced by Disney, and I was also influenced a great deal by Japanese animation. I grew up with* Marine Boy, *(anyone remember that show?),* Speed Racer, *and* Tobor, the Eight Man.

Unfortunately, we won't be attending the upcoming San Diego Comic Con. We hope to someday though. Right now we're slated to attend* Confurence *in April,* Project A-Kon *in June, the* Mephit Furmeet *in September, and the* Midwest Furfest *in November. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by and say,"Hi," we'd love to meet you!

Greetings!

I love *Ernor!* The art is great, the characters are interesting and the story moves well. I can't wait to see the next installment! Something I can't say about alot of other comics I read.

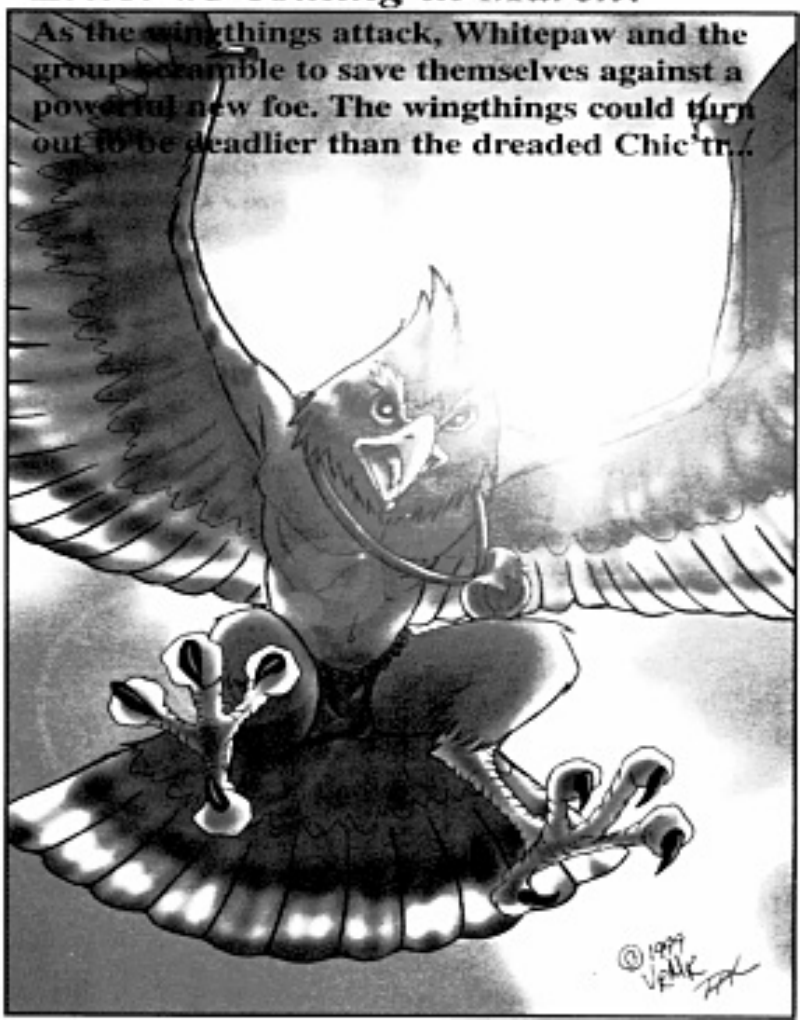
Keep up the great work. I intend to show *Ernor* to all my comics loving friends. My kids liked it too and I may have to buy them their own copies. That's a real rarity nowadays - books I can share with my family.

Thanks for that. Ernor fits the bill for us.

Melody Luke
Balch Springs, TX

That really means a lot to us! We are certainly happy you are pleased with the book enough to share it with your family. One of the goals at the onset of writing* Ernor *was that it appeal to a wide auience. Mission accomplished!

Ernor #5 coming in March!


As the wingthings attack, Whitepaw and the group scramble to save themselves against a powerful new foe. The wingthings could turn out to be deadlier than the dreaded Chic'tr...

Stuff from Mprints Publishing!

Furry Fantasy Portfolio

By Vicky Morgan-Keith

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DragonAge™ PORTFOLIO

DragonAge
By Patrick Keith

Just in time to celebrate the year of the Dragon!
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Please include $2.00 per item or $0.75 per comic for shipping and handling.

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